Humphrey Shows He's Free Spirit

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By a Washington Post Staff Writer

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 14 — Vice President Humphrey wound up his first week of campaigning today with a leisurely visit to Pittsburgh, joining a parade, attending a Democratic picnic and telling a television interviewer that if he lost his bid for the presidency, he would like to teach, to travel "and be a free spirit."

Humphrey was very much the free spirit today as he invited himself into a parade sponsored by a local television station and drew some of the friendliest applause of the week on a six-block march through downtown Pittsburgh.

Later, he told a television interviewer that his White House campaign was "sort of on schedule" and promised that "if you interview me again in the middle of October, I'll have good news for you."

Humphrey also conceded that his tongue sometimes gets him in trouble. "I say some things and, gosh, I wish I hadn't said that," he told his interviewer.

But Humphrey said it was difficult to use the same phrasing day after day on questions about Vietnam. "I just don't like peas and corn and radishes every day," he said. I like a little broccoli and succotash."

But when he does change a word, he added, "then someone says, 'I think he has changed his mind. He is wobbling.' "

Talking in shirtsleeves to 2000 party workers at a picnic north of here, Humphrey repeated his charge that Republican nominee Richard M. Nixon is "catering his campaign to a Southern strategy."

In the interview, Humphrey said he knew of nothing that would be gained by, and nothing that would justify, the United States apologizing to North Korea over the Pueblo incident.

Turning back on his opponent a phrase that Nixon had applied to him, Humphrey said the Republican nominee was "very naive" in his approach to the crime issue, because Nixon ignored the social conditions that breed lawlessness.

In a formal statement issued before he returned to Washington, Humphrey challenged Nixon to "tell the American people just where he stands on the subject of gun control."

For himself, Humphrey endorsed the Administration proposal for registration and licensing of guns, saying that was the only way to "keep firearms out of the hands of potential murderers."

Stephen Mitchell Joins Humphrey Campaign

Stephen Mitchell, a key official in Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy's presidential campaign was named vice chairman of Citizens for Humphrey-Muskie yesterday.

Mitchell, a former Democratic national chairman, served as McCarthy's floor manager at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.